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Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5895th meeting of the Security Council, held on 20 May 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Post-conflict peacebuilding", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security and emphasises the critical importance of post-conflict peacebuilding in laying the foundation for sustainable peace and development after the scourge of war.

"The Security Council recognises that supporting states to recover from conflict and build sustainable peace is a major challenge facing the international community, and that an effective response requires political, security, humanitarian and development activities to be integrated and coherent, including in the first phase of integrated mission planning.

"The Security Council emphasises the importance of national ownership and the primary responsibility of national authorities emerging from conflict for peacebuilding and sustainable development, expresses its intention to support those efforts and encourages other actors to do the same.

"The Security Council recalls its resolution 1645 (2005) and welcomes the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in advising on the coordination of international peacebuilding activities and resources, and expresses its support for enhancing the role of the Peacebuilding Commission, Peacebuilding Support Office and the Peacebuilding Fund.

"The Security Council recognises that, in particular in the immediate aftermath of conflict, affected countries have urgent needs including, but not limited to, the re-establishment of the institutions of Government, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of armed forces, security sector reform, transitional justice, reconciliation, re-establishing the rule of law and respect for human rights and economic revitalisation. The Security Council underlines that civilian expertise in post-conflict peacebuilding is essential in helping to meet these needs.

"The Security Council encourages efforts to address the urgent need for rapidly deployable civilian expertise and stresses that the critical role for such expertise is working in co-operation with national authorities to strengthen national capacities.

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"The Security Council highlights the need for the United Nations to play a leading role in the field in co-ordinating international efforts in post-conflict situations. The Security Council stresses that coordination between national authorities and others involved in longer-term reconstruction and development, including organs of the UN system in accordance with their respective mandates, the international financial institutions, as well as with civil society and the business sector, is vital for the success of UN and international engagement in post-conflict situations.

"The Security Council stresses the need to ensure that finance is available from the outset for recovery and peacebuilding activities to meet immediate needs, and to lay a solid foundation for longer-term reconstruction and development.

"The Security Council reaffirms the role of regional organisations in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, and the need to strengthen the capacity of regional organisations in helping countries recover from conflict.

"The Security Council encourages the Secretary-General, the Peacebuilding Commission, international and regional organisations and Member States to consider how to support national efforts in affected countries to secure a sustainable peace more rapidly and effectively, including in the areas of coordination, civilian deployment capabilities and financing. The Security Council invites the Secretary-General to provide advice within twelve months to the relevant UN organs on how best to take forward these issues within the United Nations system and, taking into consideration the views of the Peacebuilding Commission, how to co-ordinate peacebuilding activities and encourage the mobilisation and most effective use of resources for urgent peacebuilding needs."